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Fifty-fourth session
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/598 and Corr.1 and 2)*]

54/136. United Nations Development Fund for Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, in which it decided to make the United Nations Development Fund for Women a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme, as well as its resolution 52/94 of 12 December 1997,

Recalling also the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] which recognizes the special role of the Fund in the promotion of the empowerment of women,

Noting the importance of the work of the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women in policy and programme directions, as stipulated in the annex to resolution 39/125,

Welcoming the contributions the Fund has made in supporting initiatives of Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations to formulate and implement activities that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, concentrating on three thematic areas: strengthening women's economic capacity, engendering governance and leadership and promoting women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women;[2]

2. *Emphasizes* the important work that the Fund undertakes within the framework of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women[1] and in supporting the implementation of recommendations related to the empowerment of women and gender mainstreaming from other United Nations world conferences, such as the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, the International Conference on Population and Development, held at Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994, and the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995;

3. *Notes* the progress achieved in the implementation of the Fund's strategy and business plan, 1997–1999, adopted in 1997;

4. *Encourages* the Fund to cooperate with other partners of the United Nations system, Governments and non-governmental organizations in assessment activities at all levels that will contribute to the five-year review of the Platform for Action, including efforts to improve capacity in the collection and dissemination of sex-disaggregated data and accountability mechanisms at the country level;

5. *Commends* the Fund for its leadership role in convening United Nations inter-agency campaigns to end violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia and the Pacific throughout 1998 and continuing in 1999 and beyond, and the United Nations inter-agency global videoconference entitled "A World Free of Violence against Women", which was held on 8 March 1999;

6. *Recognizes* the progress achieved by the Fund in increasing the size and impact of its Trust Fund in Support of Action to Eliminate Violence against Women and the importance of incorporating a learning component to extract and share good practices in eliminating violence against women, and reiterates the call to Governments, non-governmental organizations and the public and private sectors to consider contributing or increasing contributions to the Trust Fund;[3]

7. *Encourages* the Fund to continue to assist Governments in implementing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] in order to advance gender equality at all levels, including by reinforcing the cooperation between Governments and civil society, especially women's organizations;

8. *Requests* the Fund, in conjunction with other relevant United Nations agencies, to continue the activities that it is undertaking to raise awareness about and strengthen the capacities of women in situations of armed conflict and to contribute to promoting the integration of a gender perspective into all peace-building activities, including through support to the full and equal participation of women at all levels, in all forums;

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[2] A/54/225.

[3] See Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/12, sect. I.B.

[4] Resolution 34/180, annex.

9. *Also requests* the Fund to continue its efforts to mainstream a gender perspective in United Nations operational activities, in particular through its leadership of the Sub-Group on Gender of the United Nations Development Group and its convening of United Nations inter-agency thematic groups on gender to support the resident coordinator system;

10. *Commends* the Fund and the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Volunteers as its collaborating partners for developing innovative mechanisms to expand the gender expertise available to the United Nations resident coordinator system at the country level, and encourages other United Nations organizations to develop similar initiatives that make use of the expertise and experience of the Fund in gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women;

11. *Recognizes* that the Fund has been able to secure increased contributions for its work, and expresses its appreciation to Member States and private organizations, including the United Nations Foundation, and other foundations, whose increased contributions demonstrate their commitment to the issues on which the Fund is working;

12. *Urges* Member States, non-governmental organizations and members of the private sector that have contributed to the Fund to continue to contribute and to consider increasing their financial contributions, and invites others to consider contributing to the Fund.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/598 and Corr.1 and 2)*]

54/137. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 53/118 of 9 December 1998,

Bearing in mind that one of the purposes of the United Nations, as stated in Articles 1 and 55 of the Charter, is to promote universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind, including distinction as to sex,

Affirming that women and men should participate equally in social, economic and political development, should contribute equally to such development and should share equally in improved conditions of life,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,[1] in which the Conference reaffirmed that the human rights of women and the girl child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

Acknowledging the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to the promotion and protection of the human rights of women, which includes the integration of the human rights of women into the

[1] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

mainstream of United Nations activities system-wide, and, in this context, calling for the implementation of agreed conclusions 1998/2 of 28 July 1998 of the Economic and Social Council,[2]

Noting that 1999 is the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3] welcoming the progress made in its implementation, but concerned about the remaining challenges,

Bearing in mind its resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Bearing in mind also the recommendation of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that national reports include information on the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[4]

Welcoming the growing number of States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which now stands at one hundred sixty-five,

Noting the elaboration and adoption by the Committee, at its twentieth session, of general recommendation 24 on article 12 of the Convention, on women and health,[5]

Having considered the report of the Committee on its twentieth and twenty-first sessions,[6]

Expressing concern at the great number of reports that are overdue and that continue to be overdue, in particular initial reports, which constitutes an obstacle to the full implementation of the Convention,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;[7]

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible, so that universal ratification of the Convention can be achieved by the year 2000;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of full compliance by States parties with their obligations under the Convention;

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[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* and corrigendum (A/53/3 and Corr.1), chap. VI, para. 3.

[3] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/54/38/Rev.1), part one, chap. I, sect. A.

[6] Ibid., parts one and two.

[7] A/54/224 and Corr.1.

4. *Notes with appreciation* the adoption by the General Assembly, by resolution 54/4, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

5. *Notes* that some States parties have modified their reservations, expresses satisfaction that some reservations have been withdrawn, and urges States to limit the extent of any reservations they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any such reservations as precisely and as narrowly as possible, to ensure that no reservations are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise incompatible with international treaty law, to review their reservations regularly with a view to withdrawing them and to withdraw reservations that are contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention or that are otherwise incompatible with international treaty law;

6. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to make every possible effort to submit their reports on the implementation of the Convention in accordance with article 18 thereof and with the guidelines provided by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to cooperate fully with the Committee in the presentation of their reports;

7. *Encourages* the Secretariat to extend further technical assistance to States parties, upon their request, in the preparation of reports, in particular initial reports, and invites Governments to contribute to these efforts;

8. *Commends* the Committee on its contributions to the effective implementation of the Convention;

9. *Urges* States parties to the Convention to take appropriate measures so that acceptance of the amendment to article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention by a two-thirds majority of States parties can be reached as soon as possible in order for the amendment to enter into force;

10. *Expresses its appreciation* for the additional meeting time allowing the Committee to hold two sessions annually, each of three weeks' duration, preceded by a pre-session working group of the Committee;

11. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure adequate financing and staff support for the effective functioning of the Committee, including for the dissemination of information;

12. *Invites* Governments, agencies and organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental as well as non-governmental organizations to disseminate the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

13. *Encourages* all relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, to continue to assist States parties, upon their request, in implementing the Convention and, in this regard, to pay attention to the concluding comments as well as the general recommendations of the Committee;

14. *Encourages* all relevant parts of the United Nations system to continue to build women's knowledge and understanding of and capacity to utilize human rights instruments, in particular the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto;

15. *Welcomes* the submission of reports by the specialized agencies at the invitation of the Committee on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities and the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the work of the Committee, and encourages those agencies to continue their submission of reports;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the implementation of the present resolution.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/598 and Corr.1 and 2)*]

54/138. Violence against women migrant workers

The General Assembly,

Recalling all previous resolutions on violence against women migrant workers adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as well as the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[1]

Reaffirming the outcome of the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993,[2] and its five-year review, the International Conference on Population and Development[3] and its five-year review and the Fourth World Conference on Women,[4] specifically as the results pertain to women migrant workers,

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[1] Resolution 48/104.

[2] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Emphasizing the need for objective, comprehensive, broad-based information and a wide exchange of experiences and lessons learned by individual Member States and civil society in the formulation of policies and concrete strategies to address the problem of violence against women migrant workers,

Encouraging the participation of civil society in developing and implementing appropriate measures to support innovative partnerships among public agencies, non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society for combating violence against women migrant workers,

Taking note with appreciation of the recommendations of the Working Group of Intergovernmental Experts on the Human Rights of Migrants of the Commission on Human Rights,[5]

Noting the large numbers of women from developing countries and some countries with economies in transition who continue to venture forth to more affluent countries in search of a living for themselves and their families as a consequence of poverty, unemployment and other socio-economic conditions, and acknowledging the duty of the countries of origin to work for conditions that provide employment and security to their citizens,

Realizing that the movement of a significant number of women migrant workers may be facilitated and made possible through fraudulent or irregular documentation and arranged marriages and that, by the nature of their status and movement, women migrant workers are more vulnerable to abuse and exploitation,

Acknowledging the economic benefits that accrue to both the country of origin and the country of destination from the employment of women migrant workers,

Recognizing the importance of joint and collaborative approaches at the bilateral, regional, interregional and international levels in protecting and promoting the rights and welfare of women migrant workers,

Encouraged by some measures adopted by some countries of destination to alleviate the plight of women migrant workers residing within their areas of jurisdiction,

Underlining the important role of relevant United Nations treaty bodies in monitoring the implementation of human rights conventions and the relevant special procedures, within their respective mandates, in addressing the problem of violence against women migrant workers and in protecting and promoting their rights and welfare,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[6]

2. *Also welcomes* the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants;

3. *Requests* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated and to furnish all information requested, including by reacting promptly to the urgent appeals of the Special Rapporteur;

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[5] E/CN.4/1999/80, sect. VII.

[6] A/54/342.

4. *Encourages* Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to share information on violence against women migrant workers with the Special Rapporteur with a view to requesting the Special Rapporteur to recommend concrete measures and actions to address the problem;

5. *Also encourages* Governments to give serious consideration to inviting the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries so as to enable him or her to fulfil the mandate effectively;

6. *Urges* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to strengthen further their national efforts to protect and promote the rights and welfare of women migrant workers, including through sustained bilateral, regional, interregional and international cooperation, by developing strategies and joint action and taking into account the innovative approaches and experiences of individual Member States, and to establish and maintain continuing dialogues to facilitate the exchange of information;

7. *Also urges* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to support and allocate appropriate resources for programmes aimed at strengthening preventive action, in particular information for relevant target groups, education and campaigns to increase public awareness of this issue at the national and grass-roots levels, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations;

8. *Encourages* Member States to adopt appropriate measures to inform women migrant workers of their rights and the benefits to which they are entitled;

9. *Calls upon* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, if they have not done so, to put in place penal and criminal sanctions to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and, to the extent possible, to provide, and to encourage non-governmental organizations to provide, victims of violence with the full range of immediate assistance and protection, such as counselling, legal and consular assistance, temporary shelter and other measures, that will allow them to be present during the judicial process, as well as to establish reintegration and rehabilitation schemes for returning women migrant workers to their countries of origin;

10. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to support and, if they have not done so, to formulate and implement training programmes for their law enforcers, prosecutors and service providers with a view to instilling among those public sector workers the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper and professional interventions for women migrant workers who are subjected to abuse and violence;

11. *Also encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin and destination, to adopt measures or strengthen existing ones to regulate the recruitment and deployment of women migrant workers, including considering the adoption of appropriate legal measures against intermediaries who deliberately encourage the clandestine movement of workers and who exploit women migrant workers;

12. *Invites* Governments to identify the causes of undocumented migration and its economic, social and demographic impact, as well as its implications for the formulation and application of social, economic and migration policies, including those relating to women migrant workers;

13. *Encourages* concerned Governments, in particular those of the countries of origin, transit and destination, to avail themselves of the expertise of the United Nations, including the Statistics Division of

the Secretariat and other relevant bodies, such as the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, to develop appropriate national data-collection methodologies that will generate comparable data on violence against women migrant workers as bases for research and analyses on the subject;

14. *Encourages* Member States to consider ratifying and complying with International Labour Organization conventions and to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,[7] as well as the Slavery Convention of 1926;[8]

15. *Encourages* the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to consider developing a general recommendation on the situation of women migrant workers;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the problem of violence against women migrant workers and on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account updated information from the organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and the International Organization for Migration and other relevant sources, including non-governmental organizations.

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[7] Resolution 45/158, annex.

[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 212, No. 2861.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/598 and Corr.1 and 2)*]

54/139. Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

The General Assembly,

Recalling Articles 1 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, as well as Article 8, which provides that the United Nations shall place no restrictions on the eligibility of men and women to participate in any capacity and under conditions of equality in its principal and subsidiary organs,

Recalling also the goal, contained in the Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] of the achievement of overall gender equality, particularly at the Professional level and above, by the year 2000,

Taking into account the continuing lack of representation or under-representation of women from certain countries, in particular developing countries, including least developed countries and small island developing States, and countries with economies in transition,

Recalling its resolutions 53/119 of 9 December 1998 on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat and 53/221 of 7 April 1999 on human resources management,

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Welcoming the progress made in improving the representation of women at the D–1 level, but concerned that the representation of women at the senior and policy-making levels remains significantly below the goal of 50/50 gender distribution at these levels,

Welcoming also the fact that the percentage of women appointed at the D–2 level and promoted to the D–1 level exceeded the goal of 50 per cent,

Concerned that the appointment of women at all other levels, with the exception of the P–2 level, falls significantly below the goal of 50 per cent, and concerned at the incremental pace at which the overall representation of women in the Secretariat has increased,

Concerned also that some existing arrangements with Member States may impede the employment of spouses of United Nations staff members,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General and the framework for action contained therein;[2]

2. *Reaffirms* the urgent goal of achieving 50/50 gender distribution in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at the D–1 level and above, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, and also taking into account the continuing lack of representation or under-representation of women from certain countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

3. *Regrets* that the goal of 50/50 gender distribution will not be met by the year 2000, and urges the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to realize significant progress towards this goal by the end of 2000;

4. *Requests* the General Assembly, at its special session entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", to be held in June 2000, to consider further forward-looking strategies for achieving 50/50 gender distribution in all categories of posts within the United Nations system, especially at the D–1 level and above, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter, and also taking into account the continuing lack of representation or under-representation of women from certain countries, in particular developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

5. *Welcomes* the ongoing personal commitment of the Secretary-General to meeting the goal of gender equality and his assurance that gender balance will be given the highest priority in his continuing efforts to bring about a new management culture in the Organization, including full implementation of the special measures for the achievement of gender equality;[3]

6. *Also welcomes* the continued provision of specific training programmes on gender mainstreaming and gender issues in the workplace, tailored to meet the special needs of individual departments, and commends those heads of departments and offices who have launched gender training for their managers and staff;

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[2] A/54/405.

[3] ST/AI/1999/9.

7. *Strongly encourages* heads of departments and offices who have not yet organized such training to do so by the end of the next biennium;

8. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to implement fully and to monitor the strategic plan of action for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (1995–2000)[4] in order to make notable progress towards the goal of 50/50 gender distribution by the end of the year 2000, especially at the D–1 level and above;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that individual managers are held accountable for implementing the strategic plan within their areas of responsibility;

10. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys and to pursue good offices on his behalf, especially in matters related to peacekeeping, peace-building, preventive diplomacy and economic and social development, and in operational activities, including as resident coordinators, as well as to appoint more women to other high-level positions;

11. *Welcomes* the inclusion of the objective of improving gender balance in action plans on human resources management for individual departments and offices, and encourages cooperation between the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Office of Human Resources Management of the Secretariat in the further elaboration and monitoring of these plans, which will include concrete strategies and specific targets for improving women's representation in each department and office;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to monitor closely the progress made by departments and offices in meeting the goal of gender balance and to ensure that the appointment and promotion of suitably qualified women will be no less than 50 per cent of all appointments and promotions until the goal of 50/50 gender distribution is met, including through full implementation of the special measures for women and the development of mechanisms to encourage, monitor and assess effectively the performance of programme managers in meeting targets for improving women's representation;

13. *Takes note* of the revised terms of reference of the Steering Committee for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat issued by the Secretary-General in June 1999,[5] in particular its role in monitoring the implementation of the special measures for the achievement of gender balance;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to develop innovative recruitment strategies to identify and attract suitably qualified women candidates, in particular in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, in other Member States that are unrepresented or under-represented in the Secretariat and in occupations in which women are under-represented;

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue his work to create within existing resources a gender-sensitive work environment supportive of the needs of his staff, both women and men, including through the development of policies for flexible working time, flexible workplace arrangements and child-care and elder-care needs, as well as through the provision of more comprehensive information to prospective

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[4] A/49/587 and Corr.1, sect. IV.

[5] ST/SGB/1999/9, sect. 2.

candidates and new recruits on spouse-employment opportunities and the expansion of gender-sensitivity training in all departments and offices;

16. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to develop further the policy against harassment, including sexual harassment, and to issue clear, detailed guidelines for its application at Headquarters and in the field;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to enable the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women to monitor effectively and facilitate progress in the implementation of the strategic plan and the special measures for women, including by ensuring access to the information required to carry out that work;

18. *Strongly encourages* Member States to support the efforts of the United Nations and the specialized agencies to achieve the goal of 50/50 gender distribution, especially at the D–1 level and above, by identifying and regularly submitting more women candidates for appointment to intergovernmental, judicial and expert bodies, identifying and proposing national recruitment sources that will assist the organizations of the United Nations system in identifying suitable women candidates, in particular from developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and encouraging more women to apply for positions within the Secretariat, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes and the regional commissions, including in areas in which women are under-represented, such as peacekeeping, peace-building and other non-traditional areas;

19. *Also strongly encourages* Member States to identify women candidates for assignment to peacekeeping missions and to improve the representation of women in military and civilian police contingents;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-fourth session and to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including by providing statistics on the number and percentage of women in all organizational units and at all levels throughout the United Nations system and on the implementation of departmental action plans for the achievement of gender balance.

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[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/598 and Corr.1 and 2)*]

54/140. Revitalization and strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/54 of 29 July 1999 on the revitalization of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women,

Reaffirming article I of the statute of the Institute,[1] which sets out its autonomous status,

Reaffirming also that the Institute continues to have a unique role to play, in that it is the only entity in the United Nations system devoted entirely to research, training and information in the context of the advancement of women in development,

Reaffirming further the objectives of the Institute to stimulate and assist, through research, training and the collection and dissemination of information, the advancement of women and their integration in the development process, both as participants and as beneficiaries,

[1] A/39/511, annex.

Reiterating paragraph 334 of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women[2] and the relevant provisions contained in agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 of the Economic and Social Council,[3]

Taking note of the recommendations contained in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[4] which conducted an evaluation of the Institute,

Taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Institute,[5]

Taking note further of the report of the Secretary-General on the new structure and working method of the Institute,[6]

1. *Takes note* of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/54, and endorses the decision of Member States to engage in the revitalization of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the proposal for a new working method of the Institute through the establishment of an electronic Gender Awareness Information and Networking System, the principal activities of which are disseminating information from all countries, conducting research, capacity-building and networking, taking into account the special needs of developing countries;

3. *Urges* that the traditional methods of disseminating information also be improved and strengthened;

4. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the establishment of a new staffing structure for the Institute, consisting of a small number of persons, and urges that the approved posts be filled as soon as possible;

5. *Notes* the project-centred approach and the fact that the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System and special research and training projects will be financed and managed separately;

6. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Institute in producing outputs during the biennium 1998–1999, notwithstanding its current financial and institutional constraints;

7. *Welcomes* the recent appointment of the Director of the Institute, and urges the Secretary-General to ensure the stability and continuity of the post of Director;

8. *Requests* the Director of the Institute to ensure the preparation of a feasibility study of the Gender Awareness Information and Networking System, including the work plan and budget for the biennium

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[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* and addendum (A/52/3/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1), chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.

[4] See A/54/156–E/1999/102.

[5] A/54/352.

[6] A/54/500.

2000–2001, by an independent body funded by voluntary contributions, on the basis of the new structure and working method of the Institute, for approval by the Board of Trustees as established in article III, paragraph 2, of the statute of the Institute;[1]

9. *Recommends* that the feasibility study provide, *inter alia*, information on how the new working method and work plan will benefit the advancement of women, in particular women from developing countries;

10. *Urges* that the use of all six official languages of the United Nations on the web site of the Institute be ensured as soon as possible, and in this context requests that the feasibility study, *inter alia*, examine the technical use of these languages on the web site of the Institute, and also requests the Secretary-General to report on the developments in this regard to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to fulfil the commitment made to take the necessary measures to correct the administrative anomalies noted in the report of the Joint Inspection Unit,[4] and urges that those measures be effected as soon as possible, given the critical financial situation of the Institute;

12. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide support to the Institute, in particular in setting up the new structure and working method for the Institute, by encouraging voluntary contributions to the Institute and its special projects;

13. *Urges* Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute or to consider increasing their contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women in order to facilitate the immediate implementation of the programmes and activities of the Institute;

14. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments and organizations that continue to contribute to and support the activities of the Institute;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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A/RES/54/141
16 February 2000

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 110

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/599 and Corr.1)*]

54/141. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/100 of 12 December 1997, 52/231 of 4 June 1998 and 53/120 of 9 December 1998, in which it decided to convene a high-level plenary review as a special session of the General Assembly, which will take place from 5 to 9 June 2000, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",

Recalling also its resolutions 52/93 and 52/97 of 12 December 1997, 53/116, 53/117 and 53/118 of 9 December 1998, and bearing in mind its resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999,

Stressing the importance of the special session and the need for strong, sustained political will and commitment at the national, regional and international levels towards achieving equality between women and men, and, in this regard, reaffirming that the full implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women[1] requires further action by all,

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Reaffirming its decision that the special session will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Platform for Action and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration[2] and the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women are important contributions to the advancement of women worldwide in the achievement of gender equality and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned, as well as by non-governmental organizations,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Platform for Action rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action;[3]

2. *Commends* the work of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";

3. *Takes note* of the ministerial communiqué adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 1999 on the theme "The role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women",[4] as well as Council resolution 1999/55 of 30 July 1999 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits;

4. *Welcomes* the initiatives and actions taken by Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations as well as by non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society towards the accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration[2] and the Platform for Action,[1] and calls upon them to implement effectively all the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action by promoting the empowerment of women at all levels and their full participation in all spheres of society through, *inter alia*, an active and visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective at all levels;

5. *Also welcomes* the replies from Governments to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Platform for Action,[5] and once again invites Governments that have not yet done so to submit national evaluations of the implementation of the Platform for Action, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/50 of 29 July 1999;

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[2] Ibid., annex I.

[3] A/54/264.

[4] A/54/3, chap. III, para. 23. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/54/3/Rev.1).

[5] See A/54/264, para. 49.

6. *Recognizes* the importance attached to the regional and subregional monitoring of the global and regional platforms for action by regional commissions and other subregional or regional structures, within their mandates, in consultation with Governments, and calls for the promotion of cooperation in that respect among Governments and, where appropriate, national machineries of the same region;

7. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, adequate mobilization of resources at the national and international levels, as well as new and additional resources for the developing countries, in particular those in Africa and the least developed countries, from all available funding mechanisms, including multilateral, bilateral and private sources, will also be required;

8. *Recognizes* that implementation of the Platform for Action in the countries with economies in transition requires continued national efforts and international cooperation and assistance, as indicated in the Platform for Action;

9. *Reaffirms* that, in order to implement the Platform for Action, a reformulation of policies and reallocation of resources may be needed, but that some policy changes may not necessarily have financial implications;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to allocate adequate resources for the provision of data disaggregated by sex and age for undertaking gender impact analysis and measuring progress in order to develop successful national implementation strategies for the Platform for Action;

11. *Encourages* all entities of the United Nations system, including the programmes, funds and specialized agencies, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to continue their active involvement in the preparations for the special session and to participate at the highest level in the special session, including through presentations on best practices, obstacles encountered and a vision for the future to accelerate implementation of the Platform for Action and address new and emerging trends;

12. *Welcomes* the initiatives and activities of all regional commissions and other intergovernmental organizations in support of the preparations for the special session;

13. *Reiterates* that participation in the special session should be at a high political level;

14. *Invites* Member States to include representatives of national machineries for the advancement of women in their delegations to the preparatory committee and the special session;

15. *Reiterates* the decision that non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as the non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women, may participate in the special session without creating a precedent for future sessions of the General Assembly;[6]

16. *Encourages* Member States to include relevant actors of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations and representatives of women's organizations, in their national preparatory processes as well as in their delegations to the preparatory committee and the special session;

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[6] See resolution 52/100, para. 46.

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the special session;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century'".

83rd plenary meeting
17 December 1999

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/54/599 and Corr.1)*]

54/142. Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/100 of 12 December 1997, 52/231 of 4 June 1998 and 53/120 of 9 December 1998 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996, and bearing in mind Council resolution 1999/50 of 29 July 1999,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the initiation of the comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[1] and on the framework for further actions and initiatives that might be considered during the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[2]

[1] E/CN.6/1999/PC/3.

[2] E/CN.6/1999/PC/2.

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on progress in the implementation of the Platform for Action by the States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[3]

1. *Reiterates its invitation* to Governments that have not yet done so to prepare national action plans and reports on the implementation of the Platform for Action of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[4] and underlines the importance of involving relevant actors of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations;

2. *Invites* Member States, in preparing implementation plans and reports and responding to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Platform for Action,[5] to report on good practices, positive actions, lessons learned, the use of qualitative and quantitative indicators for measuring progress and, wherever possible, on key challenges remaining in the critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action and obstacles encountered;

3. *Encourages* all the regional commissions and other intergovernmental regional organizations to carry out activities in support of the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", *inter alia*, by holding preparatory meetings to ensure a regional perspective on implementation and on further actions and initiatives, as well as on a vision for gender equality, development and peace in the twenty-first century, and to make their reports available in 2000 to the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory committee for the special session;

4. *Encourages* all entities of the United Nations system, including the programmes, funds and specialized agencies, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to be involved actively in preparatory activities and to participate at the highest level in the special session, including through presentations on best practices, obstacles encountered and a vision for the future to accelerate implementation of the Platform for Action and to address new and emerging trends;

5. *Decides* that the special session shall have a plenary and an ad hoc committee of the whole;

6. *Reaffirms* that the special session will be undertaken on the basis of and with full respect for the Platform for Action and that there will be no renegotiation of the existing agreements contained therein;

7. *Decides* that the provisional agenda shall include the following items:

(*a*) Review and appraisal of progress made in implementation in the twelve critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action;

(*b*) Further actions and initiatives for overcoming obstacles to the implementation of the Platform for Action;

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[3] E/CN.6/1999/PC/4, annex.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] See A/54/264, para. 49.

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare, in time for the next session of the preparatory committee in 2000, comprehensive reports on progress made in the implementation of the Platform for Action nationally, regionally and internationally, taking into account all relevant information and inputs available to the United Nations system on the following:

(*a*) A review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action based on, *inter alia*, national action plans, reports submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by the States parties under article 18 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[6] replies of Member States to the questionnaire on the implementation of the Platform for Action, statements made by delegations at relevant forums of the United Nations, reports of regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system and follow-up to recent global United Nations conferences;

(*b*) Good practices, positive actions, lessons learned, examples of the use of any qualitative and quantitative indicators for measuring progress, successful strategies and promising initiatives for the implementation of the Platform for Action;

(*c*) Obstacles encountered and strategies for overcoming them;

(*d*) Further actions and initiatives, within the overall goals of gender equality, development and peace, to accelerate progress in implementation in the twelve critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action beyond 2000, recognizing the need for analytical tools and strategies for implementation, taking into account inputs, as well as comments of Member States on the report of the Secretary-General on the framework for further actions and initiatives,[2] and, in this regard, invites Member States to provide inputs and comments thereon;

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make available all necessary documentation in a timely manner for the special session, keeping in mind resolutions 52/231 and 53/120;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations system to continue to hold discussions with relevant actors of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations, in the exchange of views for the review and appraisal process on the implementation of the Platform for Action, including, wherever available, the use of electronic networking;

11. *Urges* Member States and observers to ensure their representation at the special session at a high political level;

12. *Confirms* that the special session will be open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;[7]

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[6] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[7] See resolution 52/100, para. 46.

13. *Calls* for the participation of associate members of the regional commissions in the special session, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, and in the preparatory process for the special session, in the same capacity of observer that applied to their participation in the Fourth World Conference on Women;

14. *Encourages* Member States to include relevant actors of civil society, especially non-governmental organizations and representatives of women's organizations, in their national preparatory processes as well as in their delegations to the preparatory committee and the special session;

15. *Emphasizes* the important role of non-governmental organizations in implementing the Platform for Action and the need for their active involvement in the preparations for the special session as well as the need to ensure appropriate arrangements for their contributions to the special session;

16. *Decides* that non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as the non-governmental organizations that were accredited to the Fourth World Conference on Women, may participate in the special session without creating a precedent for future sessions of the General Assembly;[7]

17. *Also decides* to defer consideration of all the modalities for participation of non-governmental organizations in the special session until the next session of the preparatory committee;

18. *Invites* the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women, acting as the preparatory committee for the special session, to convene informal open-ended consultations, as appropriate, to consider preparations for the special session;

19. *Recommends* that the major portion of the three weeks scheduled for the forty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2000 be allocated to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly.

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